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WHAT GOES ON AT OUR CLUB MEETING

A radio talk by John Poteat, 4-H club boy, Washington County, Tennessee, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, Saturday, February 4, 1933, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

The activities that go on at our 4-H club meetings are sometimes the forerunner of what we do in the field and sometimes the result of what we have already accomplished. In club meetings we plan to a large extent the procedure by which we try to accomplish our project goals. Then in later meetings we summarize the attainments, or goals, that we have reached. Hence, I feel that you could get the best picture of what goes on at our club meetings if you could see the various crop and livestock projects in progress.

Our Jonesboro Club is typical of most of the Tennessee 4-H Clubs in the procedure of meetings and the variety of interests of the members. The club has been organized for three years, and last year the 20 members conducted projects in seven different enterprises. Farm accounts, tobacco, corn, poultry, swine, dairying, and baby beefs are all represented by one or more members.

Our club elects the regular officers each year. These are the president, the secretary, and a leader who may be an older club member or adult person. We use parliamentary rules and the standard outline for a meeting is as follows:

(1) Call to order by the president; (2) Roll call by secretary; (3) Reading minutes of last meeting by secretary; (4) Business; (5) Program given by club members; (6) General discussion and reports on progress of different members; (7) Suggestions and instructions by club leader; (8) Talk by county agent or other visitor; (9) Adjournment.

The basis for a large percent of the committee reports and even for individual reports at club meetings comes from record books which we keep from day to day as we carry on our work. These records form the framework of discussions, especially at the close of the season when we have available the final results of our projects.

From these records, we know to a pretty close figure the hours of labor and the money cost, for instance, of producing and marketing a pound of Burley tobacco, a pound of pork, a baby beef, or a gallon of whole milk.

These discussions, based on our experiences and our records, make it possible for us to benefit from the things that our fellow members have found out. When someone obtains outstanding results and reports them at the club meetings, the other members begin at once to consider using the same or similar methods in their work.

Aside from the information and instructions that we receive on different projects, club work gives a splendid training to the individual who makes either a written or oral report. When he has finished the report he usually is asked to answer questions from the president, the club leader, or some member.

Usually three or four club members are on the program during each meeting and an effort is made to have each member appear on the program at least one time during the year.

We often hold field meetings and tours in spring and summer. One of the most instructive as well as interesting meetings is the annual 4-H Baby-Beef Show at Jonesboro which is held in November on the day that the baby beefes are loaded for the Fat Cattle Show and Sale at Nashville. Last year our Washington County baby beefes won second prize in the State show with 52 counties competing.

We believe that conducting meetings in a business-like manner, gives us valuable training in leadership. Who has not seen the need of competent and unselfish leadership in every rural community? The valuable educational training that we get at club meetings, we hope, will aid us in meeting intelligently the situation that will confront us in the future.